Statement

1. Publicity Measures:

Public awareness campaign is being carried out through Directorate of Audio & Visual Publicity (DAVP) viz. Printing of calendars with road safety messages, display of cinema slides, broadcasting of radio jingles. Telecasting of video spots relating to road safety, organisation of All India Essay Competition, organisation of Road Safety Weeks through out the country, printing of road safety posters, games and other publicity material.

2. Grants-in-aid:

Grants-in-aid is being provided to various Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for undertaking road safety educational programmes throughout the country.

3. National Highway Patrolling Scheme:

A National Highway Patrolling Scheme is in operation since 1993-94 under which the State Governments are provided financial assistance for the procurement of crane and ambulance for removing broken down vehicles and providing immediate relief to accident victims on National Highways.

4. Training of Drivers in un-organised sectors:

A scheme to provide refresher training to heavy motor vehicle drivers in the un-organised sector through specialised agencies/institutions has been started from 1998-99.

Development of National Highways in Orissa

287. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have earmarked funds for the development of National Highways during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for each National Highway for the above financial year;

(c) the total kilometre of National Highways in Orissa which would be developed in the above financial year; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Funds are allocated on lump-sum basis to the States and not National Highway-wise. During 1998-99 Central Government have earmarked a sum of Rs. 1678.30 crores for the development of National Highways.

(c) and (d) During 1998-99 following works are targetted to be developed:

(i)	Widening single lane road to 2 lane road	: 38 Km
(ii)	Strengthening existing 2 lane road	: 46 Km
(iii)	Widening existing 2 lane road to 4 lane	: 3 Km
(iv)	Construction of bridges	: 7 Nos.
(v)	2 lane additional carriageway Bhubaneshwar-Cuttack section (under Externally Aided Project)	: 10 Km

Development of National Highway No. 23

288. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of accidents occurred during the current year from January '98 to 30th November '98 on the National Highway No. 23 running from Banarpal to Ranchi via-Rourkela, Simdega-Khunti;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to improve the Highway and whether Government have proposal to make it four lane Highway;